

CHARLES AND SUSAN JANE WILKINS SHELTON

Charles Shelton was born in the parish of South Hampton, County of New York and Province of New Brunswick, Canada. He married, about 1845, Rebecca Ann Daw. She died from cholera while crossing the plains in 1854. Charles married Susan Jane Wilkins in the upper room of the Trust Office in Salt Lake in February, 1857, by Brigham Young. She was born October 15, 1840, in Adams County, Illinois. Charles died January 10, 1885, in Charleston. Susan Jane died on April 6, 1909, at Provo.

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES



A number of Charles Shelton's family had accepted the LDS gospel. Charles was baptized on December 25, 1882. Some time in 1854 they came to the United States and by May 10, 1854, he, with his first wife, and their six children, his brother Albert, eight years old, and his five sisters, Ann, Martha, Louisa, Eliza and Emily, had started for Utah.

Before leaving for Utah, Ann and Albert had the measles and the rest suffered severely with it on the way West. At Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Rebecca and Louisa contracted cholera, and being in such a weakened condition, they soon succumbed. One after another, all but one boy of Charles' six children were taken until seven graves from this family marked the trail. Many others were suffering with the disease. Charles arrived in Utah with his one little boy, James Alfred.

Charles Shelton was a pioneer of Wasatch County and, with the help of Alex Wilkins, built the first house in Charleston. The town became Charleston (Charlestown) by taking Charles' name.

In 1842, Susan Jane Wilkins went with her parents to Nauvoo, Illinois, to make their home. There they were victims in the persecutions and mobbings that caused so much suffering among the Mormon people at that time. At one time a mob came where her mother was in bed with a two- or three-day-old babe, drove the Mormons out, and set fire to the home. The mother had to be carried out on her bed. They moved out of Nauvoo shortly before the prophet's death. Joseph Smith came to visit them and gave Susan a big red apple. He was very fond of children.

They were four years coming to Utah, Susan being 11 years old when they arrived. She carried her baby brother, John Wilkins, much of the way. Indians pestered them along the way. One time three Indians came to the wagon of their captain and wanted food. He told them food was in the next wagon, where they went and were eating when some Indians of another tribe came, and seeing the first three, took them out and scalped them right before the travelers. Susan had red hair, which the Indians admired very much, pointing to it and rubbing it. Susan's mother feared for Susan's safety, but Susan didn't seem to fear them. Gradually the Indians became friendly.

Charles and Susan went through all the hardships and trials of settling new country. The only way they could grind their wheat was in their coffee mills, and it made very coarse flour and cereal to eat. One spring, Charles mounted a horse and rode to Provo, obtained a sack of flour, which he brought back and divided with his neighbors to mix with their home ground flour for bread.

Charles Shelton did not have a strong constitution. He had a fairly good education, so when Wasatch County was organized in 1862, he was chosen as clerk of the new county. He remained in office until 1865, when he was called on a mission to Canada, where he labored four years. He was the first missionary to go from Wasatch County. On his return in 1869, they moved to Heber and he again became county clerk, which office he held till the time of his death. He also was clerk for the High Priests' Quorum for some time.

Susan was left with a family of eight young children to provide for. She had a hard struggle, but managed to rear them all in a good way. One of her outstanding features was working with the sick. She worked with Dr. A. Moore Lindsay, and was with him when his son Crawford was born and practically raised him. She was very proud of the fact that at one time young Lindsay was commander-in-chief of the army of the whole British Empire. She was devoted to her parents and made many sacrifices for them. She moved to Provo in

1907 and died there April 6, 1905. She was loved and respected by all who knew her. Their children were: Albert, George, Francis, Bathyea, Jane and Edward.